

NEWS



Land Services Department
Environmental Services
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CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

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CROW WING COUNTY RECEIVES WELL SEALING GRANT

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department is pleased to announce a cost share program to help pay for half of the cost to seal unused wells. A well that is not in use, or abandoned, can be a source of groundwater contamination by providing a potential direct path for surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed of waste to reach an uncontaminated groundwater source. Unused larger-diameter wells can also be a safety hazard for children and animals.

The program will pay for 50% of the cost to properly seal the well up to a maximum of \$1000. A state-licensed well contractor must conduct the work. All landowners with unused wells are encouraged to apply, but priority will be given for large-diameter wells, those near public supply wells, or those that pose a high threat to contamination of the aquifer. Sealing involves clearing the well of debris and filling the well with grout.

Funding for this program is from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment that was passed by Minnesota voters in 2008, which increased the sales and use tax by 3/8 of 1 percent for 25 years and dedicated the proceeds to four funds. One of these is called the Clean Water Fund, which was established with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in our lakes and streams in addition to protecting groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.

Groundwater protection is one of the 6 priorities of the Crow Wing County Water Plan. Water planning is identifying what works best to protect and enhance Crow Wing County's surface and groundwater resources by identifying existing and potential threats to these resources and implementing actions to minimize them. Most of Crow Wing County's residents rely on groundwater for their source of drinking water. Protecting this resource is one of the most important things we can do to help keep our water clean.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us to discuss land use and water protection activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at www.co-crow-wing.mn.us

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